**Hurricane Sandy Hits the Jersey Shore**

\*Insert Picture\*

At approximately 8 P.M. on Monday October 29th 2012, Super Storm Sandy hit the Jersey Shore. The late-season post-tropical storm left dozens dead, thousands homeless and millions without power. With at least 125 people dead and 346,000 homes damaged and/or destroyed, Hurricane Sandy is the largest Atlantic Hurricane on record.

Sandy began as a Tropical Wave in the Caribbean, killing over 60 people before turning into a category 1 hurricane. Sandy reached land in Atlantic City N.J. with winds faster than 75 mph. Hurricane Sandy’s ocean waves broke Hurricane Irene’s height record by 6.5 feet, with a total wave height of 32.5 feet. The clouds stretched from Canada to Florida, an estimated 2,000 miles.

The devastation left behind by Hurricane Sandy may take 8 to 10 months to fix. It was decided that rebuilding would come second to restoring. Communities are trying to preserve as much of their hometowns and memories as possible but the communities along the shore were left without electricity, gas and drinkable water. Over 40 thousand families were forced to leave their homes and relocate until further notice.

The Boardwalk in Seaside Heights was collapsed, causing a roller coaster to sink into the ocean. Construction crews have already started rebuilding the boardwalk and are planning to have it up and running in time for the 2013 summer season. The rebuilding is estimated to cost around $7 million.

Governor Chris Christie said “The level of devastation at the Jersey Shore is unthinkable.” Communities are coming together to help restore what they can. Everyone is determined to have another amazing summer down the shore and with the help and hope anything is possible.